

The Anglesey Compact



A Partnership Agreement
between the Isle of Anglesey
County Council and the Third
Sector in Anglesey

Foreword

The Isle of Anglesey County Council (IACC) Corporate Plan 2013-17 sets out a vision for a 'New Anglesey'; for 'Our Island, Our Future'. "The aim for Anglesey Council is that by 2017 we will be a well-run council, innovative and outward looking in our approach, committed to developing our people and partnerships in order to deliver efficient and effective services of good quality, which are highly valued by our citizens".ⁱⁱ

The needs and hopes of people can be met if sectors are willing to build strong, healthy and vibrant partnerships to improve services and achieve the vision of the plan for Anglesey. This compact is our commitment as a partnership between the third sector and IACC to work well together to improve outcomes for Anglesey.

This Compact builds on and replaces the previous Compacts between the Third Sector and the Isle of Anglesey County Council. It also complements the Compact agreement between Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and the Third Sector across North Wales and the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner Compact.

The principles contained within the Welsh Government Code of Practice on Third Sector Funding, January 2014 are fundamental to our approach to working in partnership and are reflected in this compact and our Ynys Môn Code of Practice on Third Sector Funding (2015). All partners are encouraged to support the Compact's principles and practices and any related codes of practice. Medrwn Môn, the County Voluntary Council for Anglesey is a co-signatory to this compact. Medrwn Môn is the umbrella organisation which supports, promotes and advises local third sector organisations. We are delighted to present the revised Anglesey Compact which aims to help us build upon our existing working relationships and improve our partnership working for the benefit of the Isle of Anglesey.

Signed:

Chair of Medrwn Môn

Date:

Leader of IACC

Date:



Logos go here

Introduction

The Anglesey Compact is a partnership agreement between the third sector and local authority on Anglesey. It provides a framework within which the development of shared aims, objectives, mutual respect and understanding will assist the ability of the authority and third sector partners to improve the quality of life for the people of Anglesey. We recognise that we can achieve more for the people and communities of Anglesey by working together particularly in times of financial constraint.

This Compact and our partnership play a fundamental role in supporting the Council's corporate priority of becoming a Customer, Citizen and Community focused authority. Our third sector partners tend to be 'in-touch' with the community and play a key role in facilitating the involvement of citizens and engaging with them in the design, delivery and improvement of all public services.

The Compact is intended to guide the process of working in partnership to deliver public services. The **Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee** has an important role in implementing the Anglesey Compact.

The Compact is supplemented by the Volunteering Policy and the Ynys Môn Code of Practice on Third Sector Funding. Other codes of practice and policies may be developed as relevant to build upon our existing positive partnership working. The Welsh Government's Code of Practice on the Funding the Third Sector (2014)ⁱⁱⁱ includes a number of general principles.

These principles as summarised below form an important basis for the Ynys Môn Compact and Code of Practice:-

Welsh Government and Ynys Môn Funding Principles

- Any funding arrangement must be in pursuit of the delivery of Council, LSB and Welsh Government strategic policy objectives as relevant to the funding stream;
- The Council respects and values the sector's independence;
- The Council recognises the importance of early and constructive dialogue with the third sector and will seek to be transparent and objective in its work with the Third Sector. Equally the third sector will also engage in early dialogue on all matters affecting the council in relation to its third sector arrangements including seeking permission when using council funding for match-funding;
- The Council will seek to make timely decisions about funding and commissioning arrangements in line with the Welsh Government code of practice and the Public Procurement regulations as relevant. The Council will notify third sector organisations about future funding at least three months prior to the expiry of an existing funding agreement;
- Security of funding - the Welsh Government advocates longer term funding arrangements wherever possible and appropriate. The council acknowledges the benefits of longer-term funding arrangements and will implement longer term funding arrangements where it can and subject to adequate budgetary resources;
- Fair funding levels – inflation will be provided to the Third Sector funding arrangements where affordable. However in times of financial pressures the Council considers it reasonable to expect constraint to be applied by the third sector organisations too. To help ensure fairness the Council will aim to take as a consistent approach as possible to inflation/efficiency savings as those applied internally. Specific needs of specialist sectors will also be taken into account as far as possible;

- Value for Money – third sector organisations are expected to ensure the economic, efficient and effective use of public money. Value for money considerations also apply to allocation of grants and procurement;
- Full cost recovery – third sector funding for a specific project or service will cover the full cost of running a project or service including a share of the overheads subject to funding resources available. This excludes where the Council gives a grant or contribution to a third sector organisation towards their core costs;
- Commissioning principles - public bodies are expected to operate best practice commissioning principles and third sector organisations are expected to engage fully with the commissioning processes;
- Payments - the Council will make payments in arrears. Invoices should include adequate detail to explain purpose of the invoice and should be accompanied by monitoring information as relevant to the funding agreement. In exceptional cases the Council will consider requests for payments in advance in writing where there is strong evidence for the need. Payments in advance will only be made in exceptional, circumstances;
- Fair and reasonable treatment – the Council will aim to implement Welsh Government's recommendation as far as practicably possible, that, as good practice third sector should be provided with twelve weeks consultation and a twelve week notice period before any policy changes or decisions which would lead to any withdrawal or significant reduction of funding;
- Joint approach to monitoring, evaluation and audit –all partners need to engage fully in these essential processes;
- Identifying expertise and developing capability to deliver –The Welsh Government as does IACC, recognise that there is a wide range of knowledge and skills within the Third Sector across Wales. The third sector can and does make a major contribution to the achievement of Government and Council priorities and to improving the lives of Welsh people and communities of Ynys Môn. Welsh Government recognises that third sector organisations need support to ensure their potential is fully realised and good practice is shared widely. The diverse nature and skills offered by the approximately 700 third sector organisations operating in Anglesey is recognised by the council and the third sector may play a key role in the transformation of council services;
- Diversity – the council recognises the diverse needs of people and communities, and the variety of services to meet these needs. The code of practice also recognises the importance of the Welsh language and that there should be equal opportunities for service users to use Welsh and English languages in the third sector;
- Innovation – the code of practice advocates working in partnership with the third sector and other partners to identify innovative practices that improve the delivery of public services in Ynys Môn particularly as part of the Ynys Môn Transformation agenda;
- Good governance and due diligence – this principle promotes the need for good governance and due diligence from the Council and Third Sector organisations alike;
- Monitoring the code of practice for funding the third sector – the final principle is about compliance with the code. Welsh Government will put robust monitoring processes to support compliance with the code. This Ynys Môn version of the code provides procedural guidance which will support compliance with the Welsh Government code.

Source: Welsh Government, Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector, 2014 p25-35 (adapted)

The aims of the Compact

Through the Compact we will develop our partnership between the local authority and the third sector on the Isle of Anglesey by helping us to:-

- Communicate better with each other;
- Understand and respect each other's views;
- Work together more effectively to support the people of Anglesey and develop services collaboratively.

Our shared aim is to provide quality services to the people of Anglesey. We recognise that there is added value in working in partnership towards common aims and objectives. Voluntary action and community involvement is an essential part of an inclusive and democratic society and add value to the quality of life on Anglesey. It is recognised that the third sector makes a valuable contribution to the economic, environmental and social development of Anglesey. The differences and diversity between the public sector and the third sector should be respected and valued. Each sector has its own set of responsibilities and constraints. A key focus of our partnership working will be on the wider good for Ynys Môn and its citizens. This will override individual agendas during our partnership work together.

The relationship between the sectors will be open and respectful and demonstrate trust. Each sector should strive for excellence, equity of access and embrace the principles of sustainable development. When working together, contributions from each sector should be given equal consideration and respect. Organisations in each sector have the right to contribute to and challenge matters that affect them.

Together through the Compact and our partnership working we will...

- Help to foster a thriving, diverse and independent third sector on Anglesey with funding and contracting arrangements which comply with the law and financial procedures;
- Promote the effective governance and management of both the local authority and the third sector. It will underpin a shared commitment to building the capacity of third sector organisations where consistent with a shared strategic direction;
- Help to ensure that the third sector not only participates in joint working and partnership structures but exercises a real influence on the planning and development of local services and public initiatives;
- Continue to develop the **Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee** as a liaison mechanism which is integrated with the public sector's decision making processes and the wider joint planning arena. The Committee will have representation from both public and third sector partners;
- Encourage all sectors to learn from best practice and seek continuous improvement in the planning and delivery of services;
- Provide a meaningful and effective procedure for resolving disagreements in a constructive and open way. Responsibility for this will lie with a monitoring body made up of representatives from the Compact partners;
- Whilst noting that the third sector is not a unitary body, it is envisaged that all representatives will have appropriate authority to follow up any apparent breaches of the compact within their own sector. In the case of the public sector partners, they will have the authority to seek resolution at a senior level if necessary;
- Develop a shared action plan to deliver the objectives of the Compact and produce an annual progress report to the local authority and Medrwn Môn for distribution to third sector organisations;
- Help to ensure a wider and more sustained recognition of the social value of volunteering, in terms of both the personal and professional development of the volunteer and the public services provided.

Undertakings of Partners

The local authority and the third sector will support the development, implementation and monitoring of the Compact, in line with the agreed aim and principles. We will also implement the requirements of the Ynys Môn Code of Practice on Funding the Third Sector^{iv} and the Volunteering Policy^v as endorsed by Executive on 4 March 2013. This support will include:-

- The partners undertake to maintain high standards of governance and conduct and meet reporting and accountability obligations to funders and users;
- partners will be encouraged to develop quality standards appropriate to the organisation, including promoting best practice and equality of opportunity in activities, employment, involvement of volunteers and service provision;
- partners will involve service-users wherever possible and carers where appropriate in the development and management of activities and services; Service user consultation and feedback conducted by the third sector will be communicated to the local authority to support service planning and delivery;
- the partners endorse the need for detailed codes of practice to cover key issues as required and will review their own procedures and timetables in the light of any codes of practice;
- partners will ensure that key staff able to participate in relevant partnership working arrangements to support this compact and our partnership;
- the partners endorse the need for procedures for resolving disagreements;
- the partners will review the operation of the Compact annually;
- all partners must seek permission from the nominated officer beforehand if any funding is proposed as match-funding for any other funding stream;
- the partners undertake to respect and be accountable to the law. In the case of third sector charities, they will observe the accounting framework and other appropriate guidance as laid down by the Charity Commission and other regulatory bodies.

ⁱ IACC, 2013, Corporate Plan 2013-2017, foreword

ⁱⁱ IACC, 2013, Corporate Plan 2013-2017, p2

ⁱⁱⁱ Welsh Government, January 2014, The Code of Practice for Funding the Third Sector p25-p35

^{iv} IACC, 2015, Code of Practice on Funding the Third Sector

^v IACC, 2013, Volunteering Policy